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To: damon_doumlele@nps.gov

cc

Subject: From NPS.gov: Orv trails and camping

Email submitted from: Crazydaveiii@yahoo.com at /bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm

I am also wondering how or where one shall pick a camping spot.

I understand common sense would say a dry spot however, there is not always a spot to put a tent on dry land. I understand that nobody wants a camper to crush a spot with a buggy or cut down large trees to find a spot to camp. However, there are so many rules written about damaging the ecosystem that it leads me to believe that I may be cited for damaging grass with a tent.

I cant imagine what I may be cited for if I trimmed some palmettos back with a hand clipper.

Also, am I allowed to back my buggy into said spot to unload camping gear?

This would be of course from what ever measured distance I am allowed to camp from the ORV trail once we figure out where that is actually measured from.

If I am allowed to camp say 50 feet off of ORV trail but I cant drive off ORV trail nor can I block ORV trail I may have an issue.

So I would need to know if I may back into the spot to unload all my gear and park for the night, weekend or through my stay.

While we are discussing this I have another question. In bear island unit NPS does not allow primitive camping or camping in the backcountry. However, I also do not have to check out until I leave the area. I know the hours that I am allowed to operate an ORV and I was wondering. If I park my swamp buggy and don't set a tent up or get off of it for that matter and fall asleep in the drivers seat for the night is this considered camping? Or by law would this not be considered being parked?

I know that on the interstate it is legal to sleep (park) in your car at a rest stop but it is not legal to camp there.

I am wondering if NPS has a definition of "camping"?

If sleeping in the driver seat of my buggy would be considered camping could I be cited for taking a nap mid day while parked in the Bear Island Unit in between a morning and evening hunt?

I hope these questions do not sound stupid or as if I am poking or making fun. I am serious in the fact that if it is not talked about and known what is allowed, what is not allowed, what rights I have to argue the law vs what I may be cited for then there will be issues. It will then be up to the discretion of a park ranger. I would prefer the rules be known by both parties and these rules be written somewhere.

Thank You

Dave